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November 16, 2000

Mr. John J. O'Grady [SR-6J]
Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Division
USEPA Region V
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Re: **Fansteel, Inc. – North Chicago – Site Investigation Report**

Dear John:

Carlson Environmental has submitted a draft Site Investigation Report to you as required under the schedule of the USEPA-approved Site Investigation Work Plan. We would like to schedule a meeting with USEPA and its consultant to review the contents of the draft report, including the conclusions, and we proposed the dates of November 29 or 30. Specifically, we would like to review with you the Report's recommendation on exposure route analysis and/or modeling to establish site specific remediation objectives for tantalum TCE and TCE-degradation products. We would also like to discuss with you the conclusion in the Report concerning lead. As you know, lead contamination is pervasive throughout the site, and totally unrelated to Fansteel's operations. Therefore, Fansteel would like to delete lead from further consideration in this project.

Finally, as Fansteel indicated in our recent telephone conference, it is considering engaging a different contractor for the EE/CA. Before our upcoming technical meeting, we would like to know if the alternate contractor can follow the EPA-approved Laboratory Quality Assurance Program, Quality Assurance Project Plan, and Health and Safety Plan prepared by Carlson Environmental for the Site Investigation activities, or will new plans have to be written and approved by EPA before sampling activities for the EE/CA are started? Please contact Jon Jackson at (847) 689-4900 x556 about this before our meeting.

Please contact me with respect to the availability of these dates.

Sincerely yours,

Mark J. Steger

MJS/pg

cc: Jon Jackson
1126839

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